

What is claimed is:

- 1           1. A method for open systems printing comprising:  
2           routing print jobs automatically from different  
3 types of source computers to different types of printers  
4 without the source computers selecting printers for each  
5 print job.
- 1           2. A method for open systems printing comprising:  
2           routing print jobs automatically from an arbitrary  
3 number of source computers to an arbitrary number of  
4 printers without the source computers selecting printers for  
5 each print job.
- 1           3. The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein routing  
2 includes:  
3           sending the print jobs from the source computers to  
4 a print server; and  
5           sending the print jobs from the print server to  
6 output managers connected to the printers.
- 1           4. The method of claim 3, wherein the print jobs  
2 are sent from the source computers to the print server over  
3 a first network and the print jobs are sent from the print  
4 server to the output managers over a second network.
- 1           5. The method of claim 4, wherein the first network  
2 comprises a TCP/IP network and the second network comprises  
3 a local area network.
- 1           6. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
2           transforming data in the print jobs into a format  
3 compatible with the printers.
- 1           7. The method of claim 6, wherein the data is  
2 transformed by the print server.
- 1           8. The method of claim 6, wherein the data is  
2 transformed by the output managers.

1           9. The method of claim 3, further comprising, after  
2 sending the print jobs from the source computers to the  
3 print server:

4           storing the print jobs in a server spool coupled to  
5 the print server.

1           10. The method of claim 3, further comprising,  
2 before sending the print jobs from the print server to the  
3 output managers:

4           manipulating data in the print jobs.

1           11. The method of claim 3, further comprising  
2 before sending the print jobs from the print server to the  
3 output managers:

4           merging at least two of the print jobs into a single  
5 print job.

1           12. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
2 printing the print jobs on paper.

1           13. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
2 sending the print jobs to an electronic mail system.

1           14. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
2 recording the print jobs on microfiche.

1           15. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
2 recording the print jobs on laser disk.

1           16. The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein each of  
2 the print jobs include at least two reports and routing  
3 includes:

4           sending the print jobs from the source computers to  
5 a print server; and

6           sending individual reports from the print server to  
7 output managers connected to the printers.

1           17. The method of claim 3, further comprising,  
2 after sending the print jobs from the source computers to  
3 the print server:

4 bringing the source computers down for maintenance  
while printing the print jobs.

1 18. A method for printing comprising:  
2 controlling printing of print jobs on high-speed  
3 production printers through a graphical user interface.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
2 receiving the print jobs at a print server coupled  
3 to the graphical user interface; and

4 listing the received print jobs in the graphical  
5 user interface.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein controlling  
2 further includes:

3 selecting a print job from the list of received  
4 print jobs;

5 determining if a printer coupled to the print server  
6 has a set-up compatible with the selected print job's set-  
7 up; and

8 sending the selected print job from the print server  
9 to an output manager connected to the printer.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein selecting  
2 includes:

3 dragging-and-dropping the selected print job from  
4 the list of print jobs onto a printer icon.

1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:  
2 preventing the drag-and-drop of the selected print  
3 job if the printer set-up is determined to be incompatible  
4 with the selected print job's set-up.

1 23. A print server for use with different types of  
2 source computers and different types of printers, the print  
3 server directs print jobs received from the source computers  
4 to the printers without the source computers selecting  
5 printers for each print job.

1           24. A print server for use with an arbitrary number  
2 of similar types of source computers and an arbitrary number  
3 of similar types of printers, the print server directs print  
4 jobs received from the source computers to the printers  
5 without the source computers selecting printers for each  
6 print job.

1           25. The print server of claims 23 or 24,  
2 comprising:

3           an input receiver coupled to the source computers,  
4 the input receiver receives the print jobs from the source  
5 computers;

6           a server spool coupled to the input receiver, the  
7 server spool stores received print jobs;

8           a queue manager coupled to the server spool and the  
9 input receiver, the queue manager directs each of the print  
10 jobs to a selected one of the printers through an output  
11 manager; and

12          a data transformer coupled to the server spool, the  
13 data transformer converts data in print jobs into a format  
14 compatible with the corresponding selected printers.

1           26. An open systems printing environment comprising

2           a source computer connected to a first network;

3           a print server connected to the first network and a  
4 second network;

5           an output manager connected to the second network;

6 and

7           a printer connected to the output manager, the print  
8 server directs print jobs generated by the source computer  
9 to the printer.

1           27. The open systems printing environment of claim  
2 26, further comprising:

3           a server spool coupled to the printer server.

1           28. The open systems printing environment of claim  
2 26, further comprising:  
3           a graphical user interface coupled to the print  
4 server.